THREAD TENSION GUIDE

Thread tension can affect the way the stitches appear on both sides of a quilt sandwich. In some cases, you can adjust the tension dial to remedy this problem (as indicated below). Other times, you may need to troubleshoot for other causes of unbalanced tension, such as extra lint clogging the machine, badly wound bobbins, poor quality thread, incorrectly threaded needle, or a dull needle. They all play a part with tension when you are quilting. Refer to your sewing machine manual for more information.

Correct

BALANCED TENSION

Not Correct

TOP TENSION TOO TIGHT
Bobbin Thread shows on top. Lower the thread tension dial.

Not Correct

TOP TENSION TOO LOOSE
Top Thread shows on back. Increase the thread tension dial.

If you’re troubleshooting tension issues, start with the default setting on your thread tension dial, adjust slightly up or down depending on how the threads appear. You can find the default setting in the sewing machine owner’s manual, or start with the middle number on the dial and adjust from there until your stitches show evenly on top and bottom.